



Acronym	LIVING_FORESTS
Full Title	“LIVING FORESTS”: Galician Network of Community Conserved Areas
Grant Theme	Citizen and stakeholder engagement in Climate-Smart Forestry and forest restoration
Participants	Fundación Centro de Estudios Eurorregionales Galicia Norte de Portugal (<i>coordinator</i>) Fundación Montescola, Portugal
Start Date	March 2026
Duration	16 months
Description	Galicia in Northwestern Spain has recurrently been one of the most affected regions in Spain and even Europe by successive waves of forest fires. 22% of Galicia’s surface area are community forests representing 700,000 hectares managed by 115,000 households. 28.5% of the habitats of priority interest are in these lands. This project will bring together a participatory network of 100 Common Land Community Forests in Galicia that manage over 50,000 hectares to exchange of experiences, mutual learning, discussion of common problems and challenges, and mutual support through knowledge sharing and the eventual design of joint solutions and projects for Climate-Smart Forestry, such as green fire-brakes and fire-brake landscapes, permaculture design for water infiltration (swales), use of mixed grazing for fuel reduction, continuous cover forestry (CCF) climate adaptations, multifunctional forest design, payments for ecosystem services (PES) and ecosystem services claims certifications, amongst others. The Network will seek to highlight and disseminate positive experiences and practices in biodiversity conservation carried out by participating communities, including through the publication of an online platform/atlas of best practices of Common Land Community Forests conservation, the development of a school-community forest twinning programme and a methodology for future forest community visioning exercises. The Project aims to involve at least 10 schools, building upon the experience of primary and secondary schools such as CEP Brea Segade (Taragoña) or IES Félix Muriel (Rianxo) that have already tested pilot programmes.



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